

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A computer-implemented system for estimating water consumption for a facility, the system comprising one or more computers operably programmed and configured to: (i) receive input defining a plurality of values or characteristics for one or more water-consuming operations within the facility, (ii) estimate and output an annual water consumption for each of the water-consuming operations based on the plurality of values or characteristics, and (iii) automatically create and display a water balance for the facility based on the annual water consumption for each of the water-consuming operations.
- 15 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the one or more computers are additionally operably programmed and configured to display a calculator for estimating and outputting the annual water consumption for one or more of the water-consuming operations.
- 20 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include domestic activities.
- 25 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include lawn irrigation activities.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include fire protection systems.
- 30 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include assembly operations.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include phosphate conversion coating.

5       8. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include electrocoating.

10       9. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include cooling tower systems.

15       10. The system of claim 1 wherein the water consuming operations include boiler systems.

15       11. The system of claim 1 wherein the one or more computers are additionally operably programmed and configured to display a calculator for estimating and outputting the cost for annual facility water consumption.

20       12. A computer-implemented method for estimating water consumption for a facility, the method comprising (i) receiving input defining a plurality of values or characteristics for one or more water-consuming operations within the facility, (ii) estimating and outputting an annual water consumption for each of the water-consuming operations based on the plurality of values or characteristics, and (iii) automatically creating and displaying a water balance for the facility based on the annual water consumption for each of the water-consuming operations.

25       30       13. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include domestic activities.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include lawn irrigation activities.

5       15. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include fire protection systems.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include assembly operations.

10       17. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include phosphate conversion coating.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include electrocoating.

15       19. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include cooling tower systems.

20       20. The method of claim 12 wherein the water consuming operations include boiler systems.

25       21. The method of claim 12 further comprising estimating and outputting the cost for annual facility water consumption.

22. The method of claim 12 wherein one or more of the values or characteristics are hypothetical.

30       23. The method of claim 12 additionally comprising comparing an estimated water consumption rate for a water-consuming operation to an actual water consumption rate for the water consuming operation to identify a potential water consumption problem within the facility.